

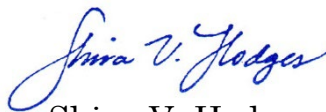


filed the parties' stipulation to \$4,850.00 in attorney fees.<sup>4</sup> [ECF No. 22]. Given the parties' agreement and Plaintiff's counsel's representations in his motion and in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 2412(d), the court grants the motion and directs the Commissioner to pay Plaintiff \$4,850.00. This payment shall constitute a complete release from and bar to any further claims Plaintiff may have under the EAJA to fees, costs, and expenses incurred in connection with disputing the Commissioner's decision. This award is without prejudice to the rights of Plaintiff's counsel to seek attorney fees under section 206(b) of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the offset provisions of the EAJA.

Under *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 595–97 (2010), EAJA fees awarded by this court belong to Plaintiff and are subject to offset under the Treasury Offset Program (31 U.S.C. § 3716(c)(3)(B) (2006)). Therefore, the court orders the EAJA fee be paid to Plaintiff through payment delivered to Plaintiff's counsel.<sup>5</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

February 2, 2022  
Columbia, South Carolina



Shiva V. Hodges  
United States Magistrate Judge

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<sup>4</sup> Because the stipulation included no provision for expenses, the undersigned considers Plaintiff to have waived his request for reimbursement of \$16.00 in expenses.

<sup>5</sup> Plaintiff's counsel may disburse these funds to satisfy valid liens or in accordance with a lawful assignment.